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SUMMER ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE AT THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

LOUISVILLE, KY (August 29, 2013) - Further solidifying its place on the Kentucky event calendar, more than 615,000 visitors traveled to the Kentucky Exposition Center this August to compete, enjoy and entertain at the commonwealth's largest summertime attraction.

The 109th Kentucky State Fair drew 615,648 visitors through the gates, up slightly from last year. The Fair has welcomed more than 6,000,000 attendees over the past ten years. Both weekends had spikes in attendance, including the last day that saw 9,000 more fairgoers than last year.

"We celebrated 11 days of Kentucky music, art, culture, agriculture and entertainment, and the response we heard was tremendous," said Kentucky State Fair Board President and CEO Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe. "We introduced some positive changes to the Fair this year and heard encouraging feedback to build on."

Among the changes, the new weekend parking plan, which included free parking at neighboring Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, created options for fairgoers to park and lessened the weekend parking congestion.

"The new parking plan worked as smoothly as we hoped," said Rippetoe. "People who used it raved about it and we saw a marked difference in weekend traffic flow."

The updated Turf Concert Series in Cardinal Stadium drew capacity crowds in its first year with seats on the field. The outdoor stadium held more than 12,000 fairgoers during the Casting Crowns concert on Monday, Aug. 19 and more than 15,000 fans on Friday, Aug. 23 during the Montgomery Gentry concert.

In addition, 29 competitive entry departments brought in more than 46,000 entries, an increase of more than 2,000 from last year.

“The most valuable thing we can promote is the talent of our commonwealth and this year showcased some of the best we’ve ever seen,” said Rippetoe.

For a listing of all of the Kentucky State Fair’s blue ribbon winners or additional information about next year’s Fair, August 14-24, 2014, visit www.kystatefair.org.

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For up-to-date- information find the Kentucky State Fair on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/kystatefair> and follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kystatefair>.

The Kentucky State Fair is an 11-day celebration of the agriculture, history, heritage and culture of the Bluegrass State. More than 600,000 attend America’s largest indoor fair, which uses over 1.2 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space at the Kentucky Exposition Center. While its roots are in agriculture, the Kentucky State Fair has grown into a trade and public education exposition, as well as a major entertainment venue. The World’s Championship Horse Show, held during the Fair, is the world’s richest and most prestigious Saddlebred show. Attendees and exhibitors contribute over \$16.8 million annually in economic impact. The Kentucky State Fair & World’s Championship Horse Show are owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board, an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.